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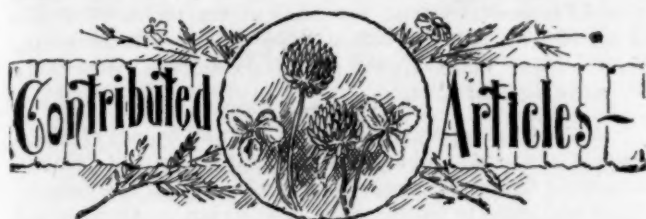
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How Far Do Bees Travel for Honey?

BY C. P. DADANT.

I have often read of bees going great distances for their honey, and harvesting crops from blossoms three miles or more from their apiary. Altho there is probably some truth in the statements thus made, yet, for all practical purposes, I believe that it is useless to depend upon their going over two miles in any one direction. We have had out-apiaries, located 4 to 12 miles away from our home apiary, for 25 years or more, and I know by the experience of the crops in each of these apiaries that the ranges of the bees in them were entirely different.

We once had an apiary located on the shore of the Mississippi river. This apiary remained in that spot for about eight years, and its crop was always shorter than that of any other apiary. It was about four miles north of our home, and altho we knew that the vicinity of the river—which, of course, cut off half of its pasture—had something to do with its scanty crops, yet we disliked to remove it, because it was in a location where orchards abounded and the facilities for a spring harvest were good. We were for a long time under the impression that the home apiary was helping to cut off its honey supply, by its proximity, but we were well cured of this doubt when we found a small apiary of 10 colonies exactly half way which had harvested more surplus than either of our own.

We have often, since, ascertained that localities three miles apart may have altogether different crops, both in quantity and quality.

I read an article lately by one of our leading authorities, in which he advises prospective bee-keepers to select their location in reference to the amount of bloom, wild or cultivated. This is good advice, and yet it is not always safe to depend upon present conditions to determine the future. As an instance of changed conditions, unexpected, I will mention what has happened in the neighborhood of an apiary which we located some 20 years ago between the cities of Hamilton and Warsaw, about half a mile from the Mississippi river.

When we first placed bees on this farm, the land was but little cultivated in the neighborhood, and the bottom or low lands along the river, composed of islands and overflowed strips, were, in their natural condition, producing a profusion

of fall bloom. The cultivated lands in the neighborhood were largely in orchards, and the timber contained plenty of basswood—a real Eldorado for bees.

Within a very few years the young, thrifty orchards had become much damaged by hard winters, and the low lands were so closely pastured by neighboring cattle as to cease to produce anything except iron-weeds and boneset, which, as everybody knows, produce about the poorest grade of honey that can be found. Later, the owners of the timber began to cut it down, and we seriously feared that all the basswood would go. The crops of this apiary had so diminished that we began to study over the necessity of removing the bees elsewhere. But in the past three years a revolution has taken place. The low lands have been put under fence and cultivated. The cattle being kept off, every nook and corner of those islands that are not thoroughly overturned by the farmer's plow, now grow more and thriftier honey-plants than they ever did before, and after every rise of the big river, a little better harvest comes to our bees than the one before. It matters but little what is grown on those lands, the soil is so rich that when the cows are kept off a bountiful harvest is sure to come—from knotweed and Spanish-needle—and the crop of this apiary is at present equal to the best we have.

Another apiary, located only two miles east of the above, yields no fall honey worth mentioning. This shows us conclusively that, whatever other people's bees may do, ours will not thrive on a honey-crop source located two miles or more from them.

There is, however, a possibility of bees traveling that distance, or even more, if the country over which they travel is not broken. We have seen our bees at work about two miles from home along the valley on which we live, and we ascribe it to their not having any hills to climb or heavy timber to pass. Very certainly, bees will travel farthest where the country is smoothest.

Hancock Co., Ill.



A Few Apiarian Observations and Conclusions.

BY "BEE-STUDENT."

HIVE-VENTILATION.—Complying with the editor's request on page 504, I would like to say a word in regard to ventilation. We are often told to raise the hive by putting blocks under the corners, and, seemingly, without considering how the bees are to get up into the hive. When the convenience of the bees is considered, we readily see that something else besides blocks is necessary, and to help them to easily get to any part of the hive, I use a piece $\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{1}{4} \times 16$ inches, bringing one side of this piece to a bevel $\frac{1}{8}$ inch back, and almost to a featheredge, except one inch at either end, which I leave square for the hive-corners to rest on; and by putting this under, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch back from the front, the bees can go

directly to any part of the hive as tho it were not there, and the incline makes it much easier for them to enter. I use 10-frame hives, with full-width entrance, and if further ventilation is needed than described above, I put a square piece $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 16 long under the rear end of the hive.

Hives may always be placed with the entrance to the south, southeast or east, and have the prevailing summer winds at the side, and with proper shade-boards and 10-frame hives, no loafing or idle bees will be found, if there is anything for them to do, and they will be comparatively comfortable if compelled to be idle.

Bees usually leave the hive at the nearest exit, but on returning nine-tenths of them will go to the alighting-board, and as only covered colonies need ventilation, there need be no fear of robbing.

Unless one studies the requirements of bees until he can quickly meet any emergency that may arise, he should consider himself a tyro, and endeavor to learn how to readily meet all requirements, without being obliged to ask some one a thousand things he ought himself to know. Printing the same questions, year after year, would be avoided, and the space given to something more interesting to the general reader, and if a man begins the bee-business without books and papers from which to inform himself and keep posted, he will be sure to fail, eventually, and I would have but little patience in answering his questions.

ABSCONDING SWARMS.—Observation should teach us the requirements of the apiary, and correct conclusions, the proper management of it. Long ago, I observed there was something wrong when bees absconded, but not one swarm in 100 will leave a hive if they have a queen, the hive properly shaded, and the inside of the hive polished with propolis immediately, before hiving them. I save up sufficient clean propolis to always have a ball of it on hand, and by vigorously rubbing the inside of the hive for a minute, it gives it a clean, homelike smell, and for many years I have not lost a swarm. When I do my work properly the bees will do theirs.

THAT DRONE QUESTION.—I settled that for myself some time ago, by leaving two combs on the cool side of the hive, for a fair supply of drones, when the queen reached them, and I have no more trouble with drones being reared in worker-combs. I tried for some time to get along without drones, and succeeded nicely, but the bees didn't, for they never gave me as much honey as where a fair supply of drone-comb was furnished them; and I have ever since noticed that colonies with a liberal amount of drones work much earlier and later daily than where there were none, and I came to the conclusion that the excess of honey so gathered would more than offset the amount needed for the drones. I am confident we can "drone" too little as well as too much.

While the bees are breeding up in the spring, and not much honey coming in, no drones are needed, but if the queen is prolific, and the colony strong as it should be, the stores will be exhausted in at least one of the combs containing drone-cells, and so furnish all the drones needed to relieve the brood-nest of the workers during the honey-flow, which is continuous here from the first of March until the middle of July; swarming usually beginning about March 15.

I am aware it will be well to regulate the amount of drone-comb to be used, but I do not believe a good, average colony, with a prolific queen, will build much more drone-comb than is really needed for the welfare of the colony.

In taking bees out of trees, where there was no cool and warm side, but ample room, I almost always found the drone-comb at the bottom, and where deep frames are used, and hives well shaded, I have noticed the same thing; as the stores are used up in the spring, the cluster enlarges, and the

drone-comb is reached and utilized for drone-rearing at the proper time. I shall hereafter follow more closely that management which has given best results.

SELECTING QUEENS.—Some apiarists report bringing in the best colonies from their out-apiaries for the purpose of infusing new blood into their home yards, but they do not tell us by what kind of hocus-pocus management that choice blood is produced in their out-yards.

The best queen is not always the first to leave the cell, and here is where the selecting should be done. Immediately after a swarm issues, it is but a minute's work to destroy all inferior cells, leaving but one or two, and I never allow a young queen to leave the hive without seeing her and believing she will prove satisfactory.

There are usually but two or three first-class queen-cells to be found in a hive, when natural swarming is permitted, and while we have the opportunity to select the best, why not protect our interests by doing so? And as we increase the size of our bees by judicious selection, we will also increase the length of their tongues in the same ratio, and the "desirable" will have been attained.

A CALIFORNIA APOLOGY.—If it will not be out of place, I would like to offer an apology in behalf of some of the bee-keepers of California, and for some who are not bee-keepers. Those who come to California, if they do not come especially for their health, come under a degree of excitement usually termed "California Fever;" and if this "fever" is not soon abated, it often results in an abnormal development of the leading propensities of the individual. If some things they say do not sound quite reasonable, you may know to what cause it should be attributed. Having lived here seven years, I "know how it is myself," and am sorry to say this same weakness, or whatever you may be pleased to call it, has been largely transmitted to the coming generation, and my conclusion is, that it is a great drawback to the moral soundness of the human family, and more difficult to get rid of than a lot of laying-workers or a case of foul brood, for "shaking off" and giving new conditions and surroundings only enlarges the opportunities, and seems to intensify the "disease" rather than diminish it. I hope this will be satisfactory "to all concerned."

Ventura Co., Calif., Aug. 10.



That "Detestable Bee-Space" Defended.

BY PETER SCHATZ.

On page 482, "Common Sense" has a great deal to say about the "detestable bee-space," that he thinks is a great injury to apiculture, which I do not believe to be true. Quite right is he, that the bee-space is handy, for that is just what we want; nor do I see that it makes any difference to the bees. Why, any man with "common sense" would know better than that! Just think of having the bee-frames glued to the bottom, ends and sides! And just think once more, and have your sections all stuck fast to the top of the frames! The idea is enough to make any bee-keeper shake in his boots. My hives have a space all around the frames, and a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch space on the bottom. And I don't see that there is any loss in bees or honey. I wonder if "Common Sense" has a bee-space between the combs or not for the bees to wiggle through.

He says that he never owned a box-hive in his life. He might just as well have them as the hive he describes, and makes a mistake when he calls our bee-spaced hives clap-trap inventions.

Again, he says bee-spaces above and around the brood-frames are an injury to apiculture. First, in the wintering of bees; second, in booming the colony in the spring; and, third, the early storage of surplus honey in the sections. Now, he

is all wrong there, at least in my experience. My bees are always wintered on the summer stands, with no further packing than a quilt above the frames, and I always put three one-inch strips above the frames, then the quilt, then crowd a super above the quilt. I then take any box that will slip over the super, hive and all. This box is closed on the top. Then the hive-cover I simply lay on the top of this box, when my bees are packed complete for winter. I have never lost a colony yet from this cause. It is the "two-legged bee-space" that sweeps away my bees, hives and all, and not the bee-space in the hives.

Last winter, having noticed sawdust at the entrance of one of my hives, it occurred to me that maybe the bees had chewed through the quilt. I removed the cover and outside box, then the super and sawdust, and lastly the quilt, but they were all right. Now, this was in January, and a bitter cold day, still they were in good condition, nice and dry, with no frost or condensed air in the hive, and they came through the winter and were boomers in the spring. All my bees are boomers in the spring, and too much so if not carefully watched. When they are not satisfied with an 8-frame hive, and transferred to 12-frames and still swarm, I would like to know what else they are if not boomers. And as far as honey is concerned, I have received 150 to 250 sections of honey from these same bee-spaced bees, which I think a good enough yield for any bee-keeper to be satisfied with.

I think it wrong to condemn the advance made in apiculture by our improved hives. We sometimes have brood in the sections as it is, but what might it not be if the sections rested flat on the brood-frames? It's absurd to think of it.

I have merely stated my experience in this matter, and don't want any person to call me a liar, the same as the other fellow called Dr. Miller. And last, but not least, is it right for any person to give himself another name when writing an article for the papers? If a man is not man enough to sign his right name, his article ought not to be published. There is Dr. Miller, G. M. Doolittle, and many others of our experts that I believe are not afraid to sign their own name to any article they write, which is right. Then we know who is who, and which is which, and not wonder who they really are.

Cook Co., Ill.



Getting Bees Into the Supers—Prevention of Swarming.

BY DR. E. GALLUP.

I am asked, "How do you manage to get your bees to commence building comb properly in the supers? Mine do not seem to commence or take possession readily, and then they often commence at the bottoms of the frames and build upwards." Again, "Do you believe, or think, that any person can learn to manage bees on the Dadant plan without swarming? How long after you put on a super before your bees take possession and commence building comb? Please answer through the American Bee Journal."

Now, I am not the question editor. Why not forward your questions to Dr. Miller?

To your first and third questions I would say: They can be made to take possession in about five minutes, and commence building all right inside of a few hours. To the second question: I manage my very strongest colonies without swarming or dividing, whenever I take a notion to do so, and I think any person of ordinary intelligence can learn to so manage them. Like Dr. Miller, I will say, "I don't know," if you are running them for comb honey, for since getting hold of the movable combs and the extractor, I have always depended upon the extractor.

July 16, I had a fair-sized swarm of Italians come out. I hived them on empty frames, with half-inch starters, and as

the weather was quite warm, I set them under the shade of a large fig-tree. Recollect, in the hottest of weather here it is always cool in the shade. If I had set them out in the hot sun they might be compelled to leave. In a few days I examined them, as I always do. I moved sealed brood to the outside of the center of the hive, and frames not filled to the center. August 10 again I examined them, and found every comb completely occupied with brood, eggs, etc. Every cell was a worker-cell, not a single drone-cell to be seen in the lot, and the queen watching to place an egg in every cell as fast as it was ready, where the young hatched out, and I saw a number of cells with two eggs in a cell. I took out two frames of sealed brood, and placed them in a super, and put foundation in their place. I put on the super, placed the two combs of brood and the adhering bees in the center, with a frame of foundation between, and filled out at the sides with empty frames and starters. I left the old queen below. I place only 7 frames in an 8-frame super, as I like thick combs to extract from.

On the third day after putting on the supers, I looked in to see what they were doing. I found the foundation built out, and every cell from top to bottom so filled with honey that it felt like a lump of lead, and the four empty outside frames were well filled, or built down.

Now, you can understand how I make them commence in a super in about five minutes. But you want a good queen, abundance of bees, and the nectar for them to gather. This queen was one of my own rearing. You will find that on the queen hangs all your success in bee-keeping, along with right management. If a queen does not suit me, I do not put on a super until I get one in that does suit. I have had a sight of weeding out this season, and now I have a brag apiary. If you do not believe me, just come and see for yourself.

Now about how I manage without swarming: Early last season I selected three of my best colonies, placed them in 10-frame Langstroth hives, and when they were ready I put on supers and run them three stories high. When I put on the third super, I divided the combs among them, and alternated empty frames between each full comb. Understand, I had no combs built, and no foundation on hand, so the bees had all their combs to build.

As fast as the bees become numerous, I take a two-inch chisel and use it for a lever to raise the front end of the hive, and place an entrance-block edgewise under the front of the hive. In this manner I can raise the front of the hive two inches if necessary, and allow the rear end of the hive to rest on the bottom-boards. At all events, give abundance of ventilation at the bottom of the hive. If the queen is as good as she ought to be, she will occupy from 14 to 16 frames. For that reason I like worker-combs in the center of the first super, and I often have colonies that I run four stories high.

Now, you can see that Mr. Dadant is right in advocating large hives and a loose bottom-board. For my own use, I would sooner have a 12-frame Langstroth hive than an 8-frame; but I am working for increase. We don't have to carry our bees down cellar in this glorious climate, so there is no objection to a large hive on that account.

I need not tell you that I cannot manage my bees as I ought to, on account of my business. I get all ready to go to work with the bees, and perhaps get a hive open, and I am hurried away to see a sick child, or to go out 10 miles into the country to see a fever patient. I am not finding fault, but I think I have done remarkably well to make all my own hives and build up an apiary in so short a time, besides caring for three young children, doing my own housework, etc. I am not ashamed to show to any my apiary, so far as the hives and quality of the bees, queens, etc., are concerned; in fact, I am rather pleased to show to visitors what I have done. So

come and see for yourselves. My evenings I usually have to myself, so you will be apt to hear from me often.

Orange Co., Calif.



Correcting Errors—Reply to Dr. Miller.

BY C. B. BANKSTON.

Doctor, I do not regret anything I said in "Bee-Keeping Errors Corrected," for I believe that I shall be able to furnish the proof. But there is one thing that I am exceedingly sorry for, and that is, that you have put such a construction upon what I said, as to make me call you a "flagrant liar." I would indeed be a very ungrateful kind of a fellow to brand one as a liar, from whose pen I have received so much pleasure and practical knowledge.

The expression, "Who ever saw laying queens fight?" I never did," coming from one whose learning was so varied, and whose experience was so extensive, would naturally leave the impression upon the minds of the readers of those "Stray Straws," that they did not, else you would have found it out. I know that it had this effect upon the minds of those who read it in this vicinity.

I do not claim to have a broader means of observation than you possess, but as you were in the business about 27 years before I began, and during all those years you did not find out that laying queens would fight; and owing to the fact that I did, in a considerable less time, led me to believe that my experience was real and yours imaginary; or may be I should say, that I observed more closely than yourself.

July 17 I caged two queens, and the Central Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, or as many as could get close enough to see, saw them fight till one of them was stung and killed outright. When queens are old, they seem to lose that jealous feeling toward each other, which they entertain when young and vigorous, and will not fight, but in 95 cases in 100 they will fight it out.

As to what I said in regard to lies becoming popular, and when once stamp'd on the minds of the people are hard to correct, I still say that, and, Doctor, you know that it is a truth. But I did not intend to apply it to what you said about the queens fighting. At the same time, your statement made a false impression. I did not intend to lay so much stress upon what you said, as what others said, which I know that no human eye had ever seen.

I have not much faith in the traditions of our fathers, for these used to teach us that old women could bewitch a person, and calamities would visit us as a result of their black arts. The statute book of old Massachusetts used to contain a law which caused the death of many old souls who were unable to harm any one. Modern truths, and not traditions, are what we should all earnestly strive for.

You may select a man, or a set of men, in Cameron, Tex., and I will cage a half-dozen laying queens—two in each cage—and they will fight, and one-half of them will have the other half killed outright in less than half an hour. There were a few bee-keepers at the convention July 16 and 17, who did not believe that laying queens would fight. The two that I caged clincht, and I suppose the fight lasted about 10 minutes. I have seen a dozen cases, more or less, when two queens were in the same hive together, but in not one instance were they strong, vigorous queens.

When I wrote that article, I did not know that you ever said that a queen could be reared from a larva three days old. I mean a well-developed queen. I tried some larvæ two days old, and the queens I reared lookt to be about half worker and half queen. Those cells I started from three-days'-old larvæ never hatcht at all. In about 15 days after they were sealed, I cut into them, and some of them had what I would call a very sorry bee. Some of them seem to have wallowed

in the jelly and died, not being able, or not having sense enough, to liberate themselves from the cell.

I want to say, Doctor, that I have not the least objection to you making a confession of your ignorance in regard to queens. You do not say that you know a queen can be reared from a larva three days' old, but refer to others, and base your faith on their reputation. I speak from my own experience, and since I have found so many mistakes made by the noble old veterans whom I love, and whose memory I shall ever cherish, I claim the right to investigate for myself.

Now, you must remember, to rear a queen from a larva three days' old, you must roll a grub out of a worker-cell which nearly fills it full, and would otherwise have been sealed on the following day, and have the bees make a queen out of it. I will tell you how to get the bees to accept one of these big grubs: Take a queen-cell which contains enough royal jelly for it to swim in. Remove the larva it contains, and introduce the larva which is three days' old. You must be sure that the larvæ have been fed 72 hours. I never doubted that a queen could be reared from a larva two days' old, but I say that good ones cannot be. If it can be done, why don't somebody say that he has done it? Why refer to some dead hero or benefactor, whose reputation for telling the truth was never disputed? I appeal to you for a living witness. I do not believe that Doolittle will say that he ever did. I do not believe that any experienced queen-breeder will say that he ever did. He may say that it can be done, but I will prove that good ones cannot be so reared, if any at all. I am conducting an experiment, and have for my witness a man whose truthfulness will be voucht for by every honest citizen of Milan Co., Tex. This man is Judge E. Y. Terral, who served the people of this county six years as county judge, and retired from office by his own accord; and whatever the result is, the Judge will submit in writing to be published in the American Bee Journal, and let the hammer fall where it may.

Perhaps I ought not to have said lie, because that sounds a little vulgar among refined people. You see, I am so used to calling things by their names that I just let the lie slip unnoticed.

I believe in individuality. I believe I am personally responsible for whatever impression I may make upon the minds of the people, whether it be good or bad. Therefore, I should be careful to teach things which agree with my experience (if I should teach at all), for I verily believe that if I should teach a falsehood, tho it be second-handed, I would voluntarily assume the responsibilities of its originator.

Doctor, you do not claim to have reared queens from larvæ three days' old, but you do claim, or intimate, that you are writing from experience; and you do not claim to know personally that any one else ever did rear a queen from a larva three days' old. You simply quote others' statements, and give them as authority, and in the very same issue of the Bee Journal you advise the use of three-days'-old larva. If it cannot be done, and good ones at that, have I not a right to speak? If not now, when will the time be ripe for some one to enter his protest against the inculcation of these mistakes upon the minds of the people? Try the experiment yourself, then if you still say that it can be done, I will shut up.

Doctor, I hope you will be patient with me. You must remember that I am trying to write my experience—that which I am an eye-witness to. The time the bees feed the larvæ can be prolonged. The time for the queen to hatch after it is sealed can be prolonged; the hatching of the egg, and so on; but all of this must be brought about by unnatural conditions. I mention these things in order to give the boys a chance to excuse themselves for what they have written.

I wish, in conclusion, to repeat, that if we would write our experience instead of writing somebody else's, or what we

imagine, it would be a great blessing to humanity, not only in the bee-keeping fraternity, but in every other industry or organization. If we teach a falsehood, made by some one else, I think we are just as guilty as the man that made it. We should know whereof we speak. Milam Co., Tex.



Are Black Bees Capable of Improvement?

BY P. A. SIOLI.

I have read with great interest Mr. G. M. Doolittle's article on page 500, under the above heading, and tho I always considered Mr. D. as an acknowledged authority in apicultural work, and I admire his candid way in dealing out his lessons to us younger bee-fathers without pretension, I cannot help to differ from his opinion on this subject. He commences by saying:

"Probably there would have been some improvement in the black or German bee, had the apiarists of the United States taken hold of the matter with the same will in breeding which they have shown in breeding the Italian bee up to its present standard."

Had Mr. D. stopt right here, and not given any further explanation of his opinion on the subject, every thinking man and bee-keeper would heartily agree with him; but then he goes on to deny through the whole article what he himself first had thought *probable*, declaring them—the black bees—to be yet nearly the same, if not identically the same as they were when they first left the hands of the Creator.

Now, I don't wish to investigate what especial connection or other source that Mr. D. has got to prove this last assertion, but it seems to me that he is like a great many people who have an idea of their own about how this world and everything thereon, whether living or but existing, was created. They form this idea of creation to suit their own allowance, and by that means make their Creator just what Mr. L. A. Aspinwall is making the queen-bee to the worker—their dependency, and nothing but their slave.

What more old-fashioned affirmation could have been put up, than the one that the black bees were yet about the same as they were? God alone knows how many thousand years ago, while all other living creatures have past through thousands of progressing stations meanwhile. Is it not quite doubtful whether bees were created at the very outset of starting the insect world? I for one believe it more probable that bees are a formation or transition. Mr. D. himself asserts that the Italian bee, in his opinion, is nothing but a sport—in other words, a variegation, or a certain state of transition, and the same law of transition ought to be applicable alike to all varieties of the same species. Why, then, deny the right and possibility of improving the black bee under certain favorable circumstances? But have there been made, anywhere or at any time, like efforts to breed the black bee with a firm view and will to improve them in certain directions? And then, it would, in my opinion, require a longer period of time to show some markt improvements in a variety so fixt, than what has been spent to do the same with the Italian bee, as the character of these latter has made breeding far easier; but give the black bee all the chances in the hands of educated bee-keepers, who are not afraid of their tail end, and you will see that improvements of this strain are not only probable but certain, I am quite sure.

Black bees are not considered so formidable and unimprovable in European countries as here. And why? Because there they have been under some way of subjection for a long time, but here they have begun to grow wild again, as half of the swarms—perhaps more—are going to the woods to be occasionally re-caught, and then in all probability put into box-hives, straw-gums, or logs, to be robbed once every year by destroying the bees.

It is impossible for me to close this without referring to the article of Mr. L. A. Aspinwall, on the same page of the American Bee Journal (500). I must say that to a certain extent I fully agree with what Mr. A. has said there about the will of the worker-bee, concerning the arrangements governing the position of the queen and the worker-bees of a colony. Tho I long ago discarded the idea of looking upon the queen as "Her Majesty," and am convinced that she is not the leader of the colony—nay, not even considered the manager of her own conduct—yet I cannot submit to the opinion that the queen-bee is *nothing* but the slave of the workers.

It seems to me, rather, that the queen is able to control—and perhaps is responsible for—the moral conduct of the colony; that it depends upon her behavior to make the bees act under certain circumstances, and I think that I have found some proof for my assertion. To illustrate this, I will give some of my own experience:

Last fall I got one colony of black bees which had been taken from a bee-tree; the combs taken out at the same time had been fixt into the frames with wire, and are as bulgy and crooked as possible. These bees are as irritable and formidable as any black bees can be found; did not swarm last spring, and ran down in stores so that I nearly had to feed them. Getting tired of them, I decided to break them up, and gave a couple frames with adhering bees to an Italian queen I had just received in another hive. Now, while the old colony was loafing, and hardly able to make their own living, this daughter colony—a mere nucleus—is working with zeal from morning to night; and when I go to inspect their hive and open the same, they never act as if they were interested in what I am doing, but unconcerned they come and go, attending to their work, and behaving about as good as Italian bees. Now, if this is only an exception—I don't know whether it may be the rule—Isn't it the influence of the Italian queen that has caused this change?

Sonoma Co., Calif.



Practical Bee-Keeping with Least Attention.

BY E. H. COLLINS.

(A talk to the Indiana State Bee-Keepers' Association.)

My text implies that bees need some attention. Let us bear in mind, however, that Nature in bee-keeping, as in other branches of farming, does the lion's share of the work; that we simply guide her efforts in our channels and aid the bees mechanically. Remember the bees do pretty well without us, and we can give them much time or little time, as our other business may dictate.

If we become familiar with their instincts, we can tell by general appearances what their condition is, and avoid frequent manipulation of the hives.

A large apiarist in Michigan once said to a visiting bee-keeper, that "those six or eight colonies you see in that corner of the yard have not had their brood-chambers opened for several years, and they give me lots of surplus."

If the queen becomes infertile they will supersede her. If she's killed they will rear another.

When I was a young man I once worked for a man whose wife kept bees, and I ate of the honey just as much as I thought I could eat and not appear ill-bred. And I have often thought that in almost any family group, say of two or three households, there is one or more who has both tact and taste enough to care for bees, and to delight in the management of the busy little workers.

Allow me to give you my first experience. I raised a comb cautiously and slowly, expecting them to be vicious and ready for war, but was both surprised and pleased to see every one walk slowly about the comb as tho they were not the least disturbed. At that moment I became master of the

situation. If you follow a few simple rules relating to their instinct, they will be easily handled, and will become your pets and your delight.

Now, suppose it is March, and a balmy day, and you have four colonies of bees. If you lift the back of the hive you can tell if they have plenty of food, and if they seem numerous you need not bother them. But if they need food place a comb of honey from last year, or a comb of syrup in the brood-chamber. Then let them alone, pack warm till June. Prepare the supers with sections and starters of light foundation some rainy day.

The first week or ten days of June you may walk by the strongest colony and turn back the corner of the cloth, and if they are not whitening the upper edges of the combs with new comb, you can go to your plowing. But if they are, you must put on two supers of sections right away. It only takes one-half minute to do this, looking to one hive every day during the first of June.

If the sections are on and half filled, you should lift the supers and place a new one under, and go on about your plowing.

If working for extracted honey, you simply place the upper story on full of empty combs, and go your way rejoicing. But if they swarm you should hive the swarm in a new hive on the old stand, and give them the sections from the parent colony. Don't put any empty combs in the brood-chamber in the new hive. Give only full combs and frames with starters.

When your honey season is over you can take it some day if you wish, but if for home use I would leave it on the hive. It gets a little travel-stained, but has a richer hive-flavor, and is always new and fresh tasting. When winter comes, take it off and close the bees down in the brood-chamber; place some inverted wooden butter dishes over them; see that they have plenty of honey by lifting the back end of the hive, and cover with ducking, fill the top box with clover chaff, and let them go till March. Be sure that mice can't get into the hive.

You need a few tools about the apiary—smoker and a veil for four or five colonies. I roll up carpet paper for my smoker.

There is no reason why most of the families of Indiana should not thus with a little care and tact enjoy the richest luxury the sweet world can afford.

A New Binder for holding a year's numbers of the American Bee Journal, we propose to mail, postpaid, to every subscriber who sends us 20 cents. It is called "The Wood Binder," is patented, and is an entirely new and very simple arrangement. Full printed directions accompany each Binder. Every reader should get it, and preserve the copies of the Bee Journal as fast as they are received. They are invaluable for reference, and at the low price of the Binder you can afford to get it yearly.

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Back Numbers Since Jan. 1.—We are able to supply complete sets of the Bee Journal since Jan. 1, 1897, to any who may desire, at two cents per copy. There are a number of new readers who perhaps would like to get some of the first numbers of this year, to complete their volume for 1897. We shall be glad to furnish them as long as they last, at two cents each.

Every Present Subscriber of the Bee Journal should be an agent for it, and get all others possible to subscribe for it. See offers on page 599.

Questions AND Answers

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

Didn't Know It from a Bumble-Bee.

I have been laboring under the delusion that when an insect was placed before me I could tell whether it was a bumble-bee or not. It seems I don't know as much as I thought I did. Not long ago a bee-keeper sent an insect that he said was caught in the act of killing a bee, and wanted to know what it was. I promptly replied that it was a bumble-bee, and altho I didn't say so, I wondered how he could have made such a mistake as to think it was killing bees. The bee-keeper will please accept my most humble apology.

At the Buffalo convention there was pinned on the wall a specimen of *Asilus Missouriensis*, sent by S. T. Pettit, of Canada. When I saw that, I was immediately convicted of gross ignorance in having formerly called it a bumble-bee. As pictured and described in Prof. Cook's Manual, it seems very little like a bumble-bee, being rather long and slender, but in its dead and dried state it looks very different. It might be allowed that I was not altogether inexcusable for my ignorance when two veteran bee-keepers, on looking at the specimen sent by Mr. Pettit, said without any hesitation, "It's a bumble-bee."

Asilus Missouriensis, or bee-stabber, as it is also called, has not as yet appeared in great numbers in any given locality, and it would be a terrible thing if it should, but its appearance as far north as Minnesota and Canada makes it wise to be on the lookout; altho just how such an enemy could be successfully fought may yet be an unsolved problem. But if you see anything kill a bee, be just a little slow about pronouncing it a "bumble-bee."

C. C. M.

Transferring—Use of Drones—Prevention of Swarming.

1. How can I transfer bees from box-hives into frame hives?
2. What is the use of drones in a colony of bees?
3. How is it best to prevent bees from swarming?

NEW YORK.

ANSWERS.—1. As I learn from another part of your letter that you have "Langstroth on the Honey-Bee," I refer you to that for full instruction as to transferring. But you will hardly want to transfer before next spring, and after studying the subject in your text-book if questions arise, don't hesitate to send them in.

2. The drones are the males. Without meeting a drone, the queen might lay eggs, but such eggs would never produce anything but drones. Some think that the drones have for additional office the task of helping to keep up the heat of the hive, but the same weight of workers would do this equally well. The majority of bee-keepers think it best to suppress drone-rearing to a great extent, and this can be done by allowing as little drone-comb as possible.

3. I don't know. How I wish I did. I have lain awake lots over the question, but never reached any answer entirely satisfactory. If you work for extracted honey and give the bees abundant room, you may get along with very little swarming, but sometimes you'll have swarms in spite of every-

thing. The only sure way I know of is to brimstone the bees. I never knew of their swarming after being killed with brimstone, if they were killed dead enough. The stereotyped reply as to aids in prevention of swarming is to give the bees plenty of room, shade, ventilation, etc. Changing the old queen for a young one just matured helps. Some say they have complete success by raising the hive on blocks $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. Others block up in the same way, only to have the bees swarm. Nevertheless, it's a good thing.

Foul-Broody Honey for Table Use.

Is the honey obtained from colonies affected by foul brood fit for table use? I am told by local apiarists that it is all right for such use. Having several colonies affected, I do not wish to sacrifice the honey unless it be necessary. OHIO.

ANSWER.—Probably there is nothing injurious to the human stomach in bacillus alvei, and it could not be detected in the taste, but I would rather have the opinion of Mr. McEvoy or some one more familiar with the subject.—[On page 580, Mr. McEvoy gives his opinion on this subject.—ED.]

Where to Put on Extra Supers—Difference in Colonies.

1. When the bees have one super nearly filled, where should I put the next super, under or on top of the first?
2. A few of my bees gathered over 100 pounds, and some others never started in the supers, but seem to be in just as good condition. What is the reason? MINNESOTA.

ANSWERS.—1. That depends upon the time and prospect. Early in the season when there is every prospect that the first super will be fully completed, and perhaps a second or more as well, put the empty super under. The bees will commence on it just a little sooner, and will go on finishing the first nearly as promptly as if a second had not been added. But toward the close of the season, when you feel a little doubtful whether the bees need more room, and yet feel a little afraid they may be cramped if it is not given, put the empty super on top. They'll not commence on it unless they really need it, and it will be better to have the one finish than two partly finish.

2. There's a good bit of difference in the working qualities of two colonies of bees that may appear of equal strength, and that colony may account for it. Closer examination might show a difference in the number of bees. A colony with a vigorous queen will do better than one with a queen nearly played out.

Carrying Out Larvæ.

What causes bees to carry out their young before they mature? IOWA.

ANSWER.—When the honey harvest closes, the bees generally drive out the drones, and not satisfied with giving the cold shoulder to the fully-matured and flying "gentlemen," they drag the larvæ and nearly-mature drones out of the cells. Very likely that is what you have seen, altho possibly you may have seen them drag out a few worker-larvæ that have been injured by the wax-worms spinning their webs through the cappings.

Why Did the Bees Act So?

I had a swarm come out and alight. I put it into a new hive, gave it part full sheets and part starters. It stopt in about two hours, and then went back. It came out again in the afternoon and flew around, and then went back into the hive again. In about two hours again it came out, and lit. I hived it, and put a queen-excluder over the entrance, and thought I had them all right. But they all went back that evening, and the next morning I lookt in the hive and, behold, I had the queen all right. I put the hive up by the old

one, and opened the new one. I do not know what became of her (as I did not care if I had a swarm or not). That was about 10 in the morning. In the afternoon they swarmed again. I hustled after them again (you know, in the best of spirits). I got them in again, put the queen-excluder over the entrance, and they stayed all night. What was the matter? When I had the queen I thought they would not leave?

ONTARIO.

ANSWER.—It isn't an easy thing to give a reason for all the freaks of bees. It is possible that the bees left in the first place because the hive was too hot. The queen being imprisoned would not hinder their leaving, for they would go on the presumption that she was along, and not finding her in their company, they don't seem to think of looking for her in the new hive, but return to the old one. The second time, they swarmed later in the day, and before they had time to make up their minds to leave, the cooler part of the day came on, and before the hottest time of the next day came on they had got so fairly to work that they had no more notion of deserting. Now, all this is merely guessing, and you can take it for what it is worth.

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This is a pamphlet of 32 pages, giving complete instructions for breaking and educating colts, teaching horses to drive, and for use under the saddle, together with many instructions which have never before been published, and which are the result of the author's experience covering a period of 20 years. By Prof. Wm. Mullen, with whom the editor of the Bee Journal is personally acquainted. Price, postpaid, 20 cents; or given as a premium for sending us one new subscriber to the Bee Journal for the rest of the year at 50 cents.

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Editorial Comments.

A Bee-Keepers' Picnic.—"Morton's brother-in-law," of New York State, sends us the following account of a picnic held recently by a New York bee-keepers' association:

EDITOR YORK:—The annual picnic of the Cortland Bee-Keepers' Association met at Riverside Park, Freeville, N. Y., Sept. 2, with a good attendance, and Editor E. R. Root the honored guest.

After discussing the chicken-pies, etc., President Wood called us to the usual, all-absorbing topic—Bees and how to manage them to get the best returns for our labor. The main facts brought out by the comparison of experiences, was, first, there isn't much in it anyway; and, profits are growing gradually and beautifully less; that this season's crop would be not over one-third the usual one, with prices low, in this locality.

None of us ever saw foul brood, and don't wish to, although Mr. Root tried to make us think it would be a good thing to ship some in, in order to know it when we see it, and could stamp it out before it got a big start.

After a visit to the "George Junior Republic," and a vote that we had a general all-around good time, the picnickers departed for home, wishing we may all meet again a year hence.

MORTON'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.

It isn't often that a bee-keepers' association goes on a picnic. But we see no reason why they shouldn't. Judging from the jolly ways of the New York bee-keepers at the Buffalo convention, we are very certain a picnic with them would be an enjoyable affair. We found them a grand lot of folks—especially the two that "cotted" in the same room with us two nights of the convention. They were Morton and Morton's brother-in-law. Two good samples!

Buffalo Convention Notes.—We promised last week to tell more about that sprightly Canadian lady bee-keeper that attended the convention. Well, she generously invited Dr. Miller, Mr. Poppleton, Mr. Bliss and wife, with the writer, to go home with her at the close of the meeting on Thursday (the last day), which we all did. We took the electric street cars to Niagara Falls, walked across the new span bridge of the Grand Trunk rail-

road, and soon found ourselves at the cozy home of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the roaring Niagara.

After supper (which was rather late) we all retired, being very weary at the close of a three days' session of the convention. Dr. Miller and the writer slept in a room adjoining one that was used as a sentry-box by the British during the War of 1812-14. Eighty-three years seems a long time, doesn't it? The Stewarts live on what is known as Lundy's Lane, made famous on account of the decisive battle of that War having been fought there—only about 20 rods from where we slept. There were 1,700 soldiers that fell on both sides (almost equally divided) that fateful July 25, 1814, and as they could not be buried, for some good reason, the dead soldiers were stacked up, a layer of rails, and then a layer of the dead, and so on, and then the whole pile burned. Awful, wasn't it? And until but recently nothing would grow on that spot, because of the earth being saturated with the oil from the human bodies.

Surely we were on historic ground, and the highest point near the Falls. We could look away seven miles and see Brock's monument, with beautiful scenery all along the enchanting view.

The next morning we also look at Mrs. Stewart's apiary of 24 colonies, from which she had taken about 1,000 pounds of extracted honey this year. She had seven colonies in the spring, and afterward bought four more. She has no difficulty in disposing of all her surplus honey right in the home market, and no wonder, for isn't her honey just the finest possible?

Friday morning we all went to see the wonderful Niagara Falls. As the distance was short we walked down. We (the writer) had never seen those famous waterfalls, and can't describe them or our feelings when on that clear, beautiful morning we beheld them. We had often thought we would like to go to Niagara Falls, but could scarcely believe that right then and there we were gazing at one of the most wonderful wonders on this continent. We felt that surely the water must soon cease falling over those rocks and dashing to the abyss nearly 160 feet below. But they just kept on, as they had been doing all the long centuries gone by. Wonderful Niagara! Beautiful Niagara! Oh, could we but stand, untiring, and gaze into thy glassy depths forever!

But we had to hasten on. Had only about three hours to "do" the Falls, and then away to Buffalo again to take the afternoon train for Chicago, once more to dive into the work of getting out the Bee Journal, so that it might retain its record of never leaving the office late.

Dr. Miller and the writer arrived in Chicago, after a pleasant night's riding, about 9:30 a.m., Saturday, and at 4:15 p.m. the Doctor took the train for his home, having been away a whole week, or practically from Sunday to Sunday.

We hope very soon now, to be able to begin to publish the report of the convention proceedings. But as the Secretary, Dr. Mason, visited in New York a week or two after the convention, and as Mr. Hutchinson, the reporter, on account of his recent awful affliction will consequently be unable to furnish his part of the report as promptly as anticipated, all will necessarily be delayed. But we trust when we do begin it, we can crowd it right through. It will all be published before the end of the present volume, at any rate. So, please have patience.

Editor Hutchinson's Great Sorrow.—Somehow some of the private affairs of editors of bee-papers seem to be of more interest to their fellow editors and bee-keepers in general, than are the private affairs of newspaper editors to their readers or fellow editors. Hence it is, that when a bee-keeper is in trouble, a stream of sympathy at once goes out to him in his distress. This will especially be so in the case of Mr. Hutchinson's recent troubles, for he has so many personal friends among bee-keepers who will be interested in knowing the particulars of what we only referred to briefly two weeks ago.

While it is not always a pleasant thing to publish the details of certain affairs, still in this instance we think we will be pardoned if we reproduce in Mr. Hutchinson's own tender words the full account of the cause of his late home sorrows. Here is what he said in the September Review:

THE SAD DEATH OF SWEET LITTLE FERN.

Five years ago this very day (August 31) there came to our home the sweetest, brightest little girl baby that I ever knew. How she gladdened our hearts as day by day she unfolded like the human blossom that she was. Happiness deeper and sweeter than

I have enjoyed with her no mortal ever knew. Now the little form is laid away, with the roses and ferns that she loved so well twined about her; and over us all hangs the awful sorrow that she died by her own mother's hand.

Most of the friends of the Review know that for nearly two years Mrs. Hutchinson has been ailing mentally, all of last winter being past in the asylum. She was so much improved, but so home-sick last spring, that the superintendent and myself believed that she would improve faster at home, and she was allowed to come home, to remain so long as her condition would warrant it. All summer we have been working to build up her general health, by nourishing food, baths, out-door exercise, and the like, she often taking long drives with Ivy and Fern. She sometimes had periods of depression, but on the whole she seemed on the upgrade, and we hoped the worst was over. She had never exhibited the least tendency towards suicide or homicide, and nothing was feared in this direction.

When I went away to the Buffalo convention she was not feeling very well, and I hesitated long and seriously as to whether I better go, but I finally decided to go, she assuring me that she was no worse than at many times previous. When I reached home Friday evening I experienced a feeling of great relief to find all the loved ones alive and apparently well. All were asleep except my wife, and we sat and talked until quite late, she trying to convince me that there was great danger that the whole family would eventually become insane, and I trying to allay any such delusion. Apparently I succeeded, but little sleep came to me as I tossed on my pillow and tried to think what course to pursue. It would not answer to go away to the fairs and leave her alone. I must either give up going to the fairs, or take her back to the asylum while I was away, or else take her with me. I decided upon the latter course, thinking that the trip might do her good.

In the morning she felt much better, and I told her of my decision, and she agreed to go, something she had before declined to do. Then she said that she believed she would go out driving, as she had not been out in several days, and it might do her good. I went down town to get a woman to come and stay with the girls while we were away at the fairs, and while there I saw my wife and little Fern driving along. I went out and spoke to them and asked if there was anything that they wanted, and Fern sat there looking so sweet and happy in a little new dress, and she said, "I am going to have some candy." I said, "That's nice." And she smiled, and I thought what a sweet, sweet, happy little body she is. It was the last time I ever saw her alive.

Her mother went to a drug-store and bought a bottle of chloroform, drove outside of the city limits, saturated a handkerchief with the deadly fluid and applied it to the child's face, holding it there until life was extinct. Then she laid her under some bushes and drove back for Ivy.

Of course we inquired for Fern, but she said that she had left her at a neighbor's where she often went to play with another little girl. She drove away with Ivy to the outskirts of the city, where she attempted to destroy her life with a revolver, firing three shots, one passing through the right breast, one striking her in the small of the back, and one in the side of the face, knocking out two teeth, passing through the tongue and striking the back of the throat. Ivy's screams and the pistol shots attracted a man, who came on the run and took the revolver away.

The unfortunate mother was taken to the jail, and Ivy brought home and her wounds dressed. At present she is doing nicely, and there is every hope that she may recover. Searching parties started out and soon returned with the dead body of poor, dear, little Fern.

The sight of my poor wife is the most heart-rending of anything that can be imagined. In one sense she is rational, that is, she realizes fully what she has done, and her grief is something beyond description. That alone is enough to destroy her reason, and in her weakened mental and nervous condition I see no hope for her recovery. In all probability she will pass the remainder of her days behind asylum doors, and the fewer those days the better for all.

She tells me that it was the fear that we were all in danger of being sent to the asylum that impelled her to the awful deed. She intended to kill us all and then destroy herself. She says there was an impulse to do this, that she was powerless to resist; she struggled with all her strength, but something forced her on and on, and compelled her to do the awful deed. Then she will burst out crying, "My poor little girl, my poor little Fern, how could I, how could I! Oh, if I only had her sweet little face back here beside me." But we all know that the poor woman was not responsible for her act. She passes hours on her knees in prayer, then she will toss on her couch in a frenzy of grief, and then she may pass hours in a dazed condition, in which she practically feels and realizes nothing.

I had a note-book full of notes taken at the convention, besides numerous little items picked up from the numerous friends that were present, and I also intended to give my readers my impressions of Niagara falls, in short, to make this issue a bright and sparkling number, but you must excuse me—my heart is too sad.

I may say that I am going to the fairs just the same, that is, if Ivy continues to improve. It is my only hope—to keep myself busy. Then there are others dependent upon me, and I shall not begin now to do what I never did before—shirk my duty. I expect to go right on printing the Review, but I must ask the friends to be indulgent once more, while I am fitting my back to this great burden.

Now while perhaps there is not much that many of us can do to help our bereaved friend and brother (aside from a deep feeling

of sincerest sympathy for him in his sacred sadness), there is one thing that some of our readers can do, if they are also readers of the Bee-Keepers' Review. They can send a year's subscription to him *at once*, and help a little financially, for in such times as those through which he has been called to pass, money is very needful. And particularly if any are in arrears for their subscription to the Review, be sure to pay it all up *now*, and add an extra dollar or two for advance subscription. We know Mr. Hutchinson would greatly appreciate this, tho he hasn't the slightest idea of our making the suggestion.

If you are not a subscriber to the Review, suppose you try it for a year in addition to the American Bee Journal—it is well worth the dollar asked for it. Just send direct to W. Z. Hutchinson, 613 Wood St., Flint, Mich.

The Weekly Budget.

MR. C. P. DADANT, of Hancock, Ill., wrote Sept. 10: "Hot, hot, hot! and the bees are beginning to show the shortage up here on the hills."

MR. G. M. DOOLITTLE, writing us under date of Sept. 13, said:

"DEAR BRO. YORK:—I have been on the sick list ever since I returned from Buffalo. I caught a severe cold and it settled on my lungs. I have not been entirely confined to the house, but have only done any work by actually driving myself to it. I am slowly recovering, and hope to be as well as ever soon."

MR. THOMAS G. NEWMAN, we learn through a friend, on account of being too much of a tax on his health, felt compelled to decline a re-election to the presidency of the California State Spiritualists' Association, which held its annual meeting in San Francisco the first week of this month. It will be remembered that Mr. Newman is now editor and publisher of a weekly spiritualistic periodical—the Philosophical Journal.

MR. C. THEILMANN, of Wabasha Co., Minn., writing us Sept. 11, said:

FRIEND YORK:—I have just come home from our State Fair, where I judged the honey exhibit, which was better than I had expected for such a poor season. There was considerable last year's honey in it, especially extracted. All the bee-keepers had the same story to tell—none, or but little, white honey. All of them have been getting some fall honey the past two weeks—probably enough for their immediate home market. C. THEILMANN.

MR. J. F. MCINTYRE, of Ventura Co., Calif., made us a very pleasant call Thursday, Sept. 16, when on his way home from the Buffalo convention and a visit among relatives and friends in Ontario, Canada. Mr. McIntyre is one of the substantial bee-keepers of the Pacific Coast, has 600 colonies in one apiary, and his crop this year is about 18 tons of extracted honey. He is one of the independent bee-men—holds his crop until the year after it is produced, and thereby gets a better price. Mr. McIntyre has been in California for 16 years, and thinks there's no other place to live like his locality, outside of that State. His family consists of wife and five daughters.

MR. GEO. POINDEXTER, of Dewitt Co., Ill., says his local newspaper—the Herald—"will exhibit at the State fair, what represents an old-time log-cabin home, made entirely from honey. In size it is about one foot in height and perhaps a foot square. The house has the old-fashioned roof, with the chimney for the fireplace running up the side. The one door swings ajar, allowing one a view of the interior of the hut. He also has made of honey proportionately in size to the log-cabin, an exact reproduction of his home and apiary. From honey is made his house, and scattered all around it, also made from pure honey, are the bee-hives. Placed here and there, just thick enough to give the apiary yard a pretty appearance, are artificial flowers. A fence made out of comb foundation encircles the apiary and house, and the entire thing is enclosed in a large glass frame separate from the log-cabin, which is arranged in a frame alone." This will be quite an attraction for the aparian department of the Illinois State Fair this month.

BEE-BOOKS

SENT POSTPAID BY

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Bee-Keepers' Guide, or Manual of the Apiary, by Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College.—This book is not only instructive and helpful as a guide in bee-keeping, but is interesting and thoroughly practical and scientific. It contains a full delineation of the anatomy and physiology of bees. 400 pages; bound in cloth and fully illustrated. Price, postpaid, \$1.25.

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Advanced Bee-Culture, Its Methods and Management, by W. Z. Hutchinson.—The author of this work is too well known to need further description of his book. He is a practical and entertaining writer. You should read his book. 90 pages, bound in paper, and illustrated. Price, 50 cts.

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Bees Did Well.

There are a good many small bee-keepers here, and they do not take any bee-paper; but when they get stuck they come to me to get them out.

My bees did very well this year. I got 1400 pounds of honey from 16 colonies, and there was no basswood here this year, so all I got was from clover.

D. E. LANE.

Washtenaw Co., Mich., Sept. 12.

A Case of Laying Worker.

Under date of Aug. 13, I wrote in regard to a swarm of bees that swarmed, etc., as per page 567. I have examined them, by request, weekly. The swarm that swarmed out hung on the limb for over three weeks, then returned to the old colony. This morning I examined again, and found evidence of a laying worker, which confirms my first theory, that the queen became unfit for work, and not dying until all brood was too far advanced for queen-rearing, as I found no brood or eggs the first time I examined them—7 p.m., Aug. 12.

J. D. COLES.

Salem Co., N. J., Sept. 11.

A Good Minnesota Bee-Locality.

Last spring I moved from Stevens county to this place. I arrived here May 31, and my bees arrived June 4. The white clover was in blossom, and has continued in blossom ever since. The roadsides and old fields are white with clover now (Sept. 3), and bees are working on it as much as they have any time this season.

I think this is the best locality for honey and the honey-bee of any place I ever lived in. It is a timbered country, with numerous streams of water, and the finest natural meadows I ever saw. The streams are all lined with willow, as also are all low, moist lands which furnish an abundance of bee-forage. The woods are full of thorn-apple, and there is not any blossom here that bees work on as much as they do this tree. The woods are full of red raspberry, which furnishes a large amount of honey.

Bees get an early start in the spring here, and have an abundance of blossoms all the season. At the present time the fields are yellow with golden-rod. There are two plants that grow here, the names of which no one knows. I will send a sample to the editor of the Bee Journal for him to ascertain what they are. One of them resembles catnip. It blossoms about July 15, and lasts till September, and it is covered with bees while it lasts. I do not know what quality the honey is, or whether light or dark. The other grows about 2½ to 3 feet high, with numerous branches; commences to blossom July 1, and lasts till September; it is said to yield the best honey of anything that grows in this vicinity. It is known as fireweed, because it always grows on land that has been cleared and burnt. The seed is scattered the same as the thistle or milkweed.

There is plenty of basswood here, but the caterpillars are so destructive every spring that there has been no blossoms



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DR. GEO. LACKE, Newburgh, Ind.

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for the last three or four years. There are a number of bee-keepers here, but they all complain of more swarms than honey this year.

I started in the spring with six colonies, and have 12 very strong colonies now. One man in this vicinity has taken 160 pounds from one colony this year. This is the best I have heard of yet. I askt him if he read the American Bee Journal, and he said he did, and he was well pleased with it.

Honey is selling at present for 10 and 12 cents per pound, in one-pound sections.

S. B. SMITH.

Millelacs Co., Minn., Sept. 6.

[We cannot name the first flower described, and we regret to say our botanist must have gone on a vacation and forgotten to return. We have sent him several flowers lately, but have received no response. This will explain to others also why they have not seen their specimens named in the Bee Journal. Prof. T. J. Burrill, Champaign, Ill., is an excellent botanist, and no doubt would be glad to name any flower specimens sent to him. When writing him, be sure to enclose at least a 2-cent stamp for reply.

The second flower described by Mr. Smith is no doubt the willow-herb, or fireweed, so famous as a honey-plant in the burnt districts of Michigan and Wisconsin.—EDITOR.]

Best Season for Seven Years.

Bees have done, and are doing finely, this year. It is like old times—nothing like it for six or seven years.

D. C. McLEOD.

Christian Co., Ill., Sept. 11.

A Drouthy Year.

Kansas is drouthy this year, and there will not be half a crop of corn here. I am 70 years old, and keep 20 colonies of bees. I mean to improve and do the best I can, so I think by reading the experience of older ones in the business, I will learn something, or some better way to do.

H. W. FELT.

Norton Co., Kans., Sept. 9.

Did the Queen Remate?

Having had rather a queer experience this year with a colony of goldens, I have concluded to write it up for the benefit of the "craft."

On April 27, 1896, I purchast a golden queen whose bees were simply beauties. I introduced her all right in a colony of blacks, and soon all were as pretty "goldens" as I ever saw, and remained so throughout the year 1896; but last spring what was my surprise to see about half of the young bees were "good blacks" again. "Sez I to myself, sez I," she's been superseded. So into them I went, and lo and behold there was the same old clipt queen. Well, I let them go awhile, and they nearly all were dark hybrids, some black, sure enough.

About June 1, I took her out and put her into an empty hive with just a few bees to see what she would show there, and thinking perhaps there was another queen in the hive. Well, the colony

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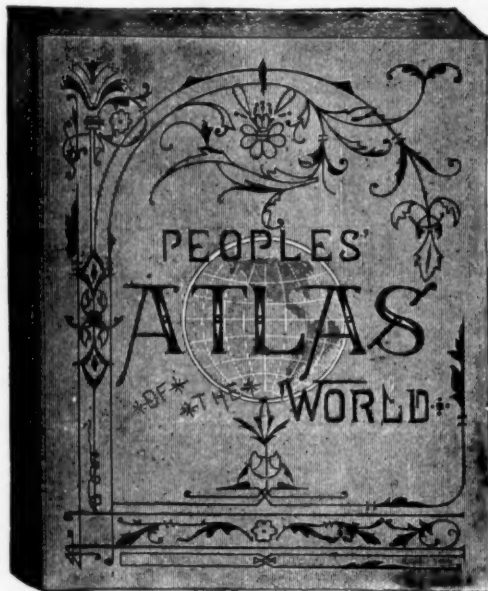
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went to work to rear a queen. I tore
down their cells, as I didn't want any of
her stock; kept them queenless for
about 30 days, until there was neither
brood nor eggs in the hive, to be sure
that there was no other queen, and then
gave them a golden queen, since which
time all has gone well.

Now, to return to the old queen. She
built up a splendid colony of very dark
hybrids, and I finally "removed" her
and introduced a golden to them. Now,
this queen was clipped, and could not raise
herself 4 inches from the ground, both
wings on one side being clipped close. Her
bees were all right for one year, then all
wrong. There is no mistake but it is
one and the same queen. Question: Did
she remate in the hive?

The facts as above set forth I can sub-
stantiate by another bee-keeper, who
watched the case from start to finish.

This has been a fine honey-year. I
started in the spring with six colonies.
In dovetailed hives, have now 13, and
have taken 498 pounds of extracted
honey. My bees are in good condition
for winter, and will average 25 pounds
to the colony. I think the honey-flow
is over here now, and consequently I
have got all I will get.

In conclusion I will say that I owe the
Bee Journal one dollar and my success.
The dollar the publishers will get soon,
but the success and Bee Journal I want
to keep, so send it on.

J. W. OGLESBY.

Logan Co., Ark., Aug. 30.

Poor Season.

Our season has been very poor here.
This month is our best for honey, but
the bees are not gaining very fast—aver-
age one pound a day per colony. I have
39 colonies. **A. E. SMITH.**

Posey Co., Ind., Sept. 8.

A Rather Poor Season.

This has been a rather poor honey
season—a scant half-crop of white
clover.

Our prospects for a fall honey-crop
were reasonably good, but just now we
are suffering from a drouth which may
cut it short. **W. J. CULLINAN.**

Adams Co., Ill., Sept. 7.

Another Case of Laying Worker.

The bees commenced casting swarms
as early as May 15, and from the first
swarm one issued June 25. All of the
colonies cast three to four swarms. The
largest swarm issued August 12, from a
second swarm, making our hpiary con-
sist of 25 colonies (starting in Spring
with only seven colonies) beside two
swarms having united and two getting
away.

The main object of this article is to
give my experience with a laying worker.
In one of my oldest colonies, which
swarmed 4 or 5 times, I discovered, about
two weeks ago, that the colony was very
weak (having swarmed about July 10)
and upon investigation I found it was
queenless—nearly devoured by moth—
and only contained about a handful of
workers, but lots of honey in the brood-
frames. I immediately opened up the
colony, which had swarmed on Aug. 12,
and found two frames containing queen-
cells, one of which I gave to the queen-
less colony. While in the act of placing

Cash PAID FOR Beeswax

For all the Good, Pure Yellow
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THE "NOVELTY" POCKET-KNIFE!



Your Name on the Knife.—When ordering, be sure to say just what Name and Address you wish put on the Knife.

The NOVELTY KNIFE is indeed a novelty. The novelty lies in the handle. It is made beautifully of indestructible celluloid, which is as transparent as glass. Underneath the celluloid, on one side of the handle is placed an AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL reminder, and on the other side, name and residence of the Subscriber.

The material entering into this celebrated knife is of the very best quality; the blades are handforged out of the very finest English razor-steel, and we warrant every blade. The bolsters are made of German silver, and will never rust or corrode. The rivets are hardened German silver wire; the linings are plate brass; the back springs of Sheffield spring steel, and the finish of handle as described above. It will last a lifetime, with proper usage.

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How appropriate this knife is for a Christmas, New Year or birthday present! What more lasting memento could a mother give to a son, a wife to a husband, a sister to a brother, a lady to a gentleman, or vice versa, a son to a mother, a husband to a wife, a brother to a sister, or a gentleman to a lady—the knife having the name of the recipient on one side?

The accompanying cut gives a faint idea, but cannot fully convey an exact representation of this beautiful knife, as the "Novelty" must be seen to be appreciated.

How to Get this Valuable Knife.—We send it postpaid, for \$1.00, or give it as a Premium to the one sending us three new Subscribers to the BEE JOURNAL (with \$3.00), and we will also send to each new name a copy of the Premium Edition of the book "Bees and Honey." We club the Novelty Knife with the BEE JOURNAL for one year, both for \$1.90.

Any Name and Address Put on the Knife.

GEORGE W. YORK & CO.,
CHICAGO, ILLS.

Allow about two weeks for your order to be filled.

the frame in the hive, a queen popt out of one of the cells, and disappeared in the hive. Robbers had by this time commenced their ravages, so I abandoned the idea of recovering her, counting on one of the other cells should she be destroyed. I closed the entrance, except space for one bee, and moved the hive to another part of the yard. I examined the hive the next day, finding it still queenless, with the remaining cells destroyed. I also found the evidence of a laying worker. It is needless to say I was perplexed, and spent some sleepless hours that night studying out plans, but awoke in the morning with the following program mapped out:

I closed the entrance with wire gauze, sprinkled the hive, bees, and frames with sugar and peppermint flavored water, exchanged three frames with other colonies for brood and hovering bees, which I also sprinkled with the mint water on placing in the hive. The same evening I introduced a caged queen, and fed them well. The following morning I found the queen liberated, and doing well as a mother. Of course, I found some dead bees, but since then the colony is working well, and with favorable weather I shall expect some surplus honey.

I have since introduced three Italian queens with success. Will some old apiarist kindly criticize, and point out my mistakes, in a later number of the Bee Journal?

W. I. JONES.
St. Louis City Co., Mo., Aug. 30.

What Five Colonies Did.

I bought 5 colonies last spring for \$7.50. All swarmed once, and I hived them on the old stand. The 5 new swarms gave me 313 pounds of comb honey, which I sold for 15 cents a pound. I transferred the old colonies, as they were in old boxes, and divided them into

40 nuclei, and built them up to full colonies. I got 10 quarts of extracted honey, 5 pounds of wax, and 6 gallons of fine vinegar. The 45 colonies are now worth \$180; the honey, wax, and vinegar, \$53.45, making a total of \$233.45. How is that for 5 old box-hive colonies?

I have 85 colonies in all, starting in 1896 with 2, and bought 6 last spring. My best colonies gave me 130 pounds of white clover comb honey, and they are all hustling on the fall flowers. Why go to the Klondike? Just buy a few colonies of bees, and subscribe for the American Bee Journal, and you will have something as good as gold—a sure thing!

W. D. CRAIG.
Douglas Co., Ill., Sept. 13.

Late Swarming.

Bees have done fairly well. I had 9 colonies, spring count. There has been a continuous flow of nectar since wild mustard blossomed in June, but the worst feature of it all is my bees swarmed but twice (or two new swarms) in July, none in June, and they were strong, so they were storing honey freely in the supers, and now they are swarming freely. I have had 4 swarms so far in September, and it looks like a good many more to follow. All are large swarms. Golden-rod is in bloom. I do not know what to do with the new swarms, only to let them go where they please.

In all probability, in about 10 days or two weeks we will have a frost. I would like to ask if this is anything new for bees to swarm so freely in September. I have three to four supers on, and then the bees hang out by the painful.

H. K. MOULTON.
Cottonwood Co., Minn., Sept. 6.

See the premium offers on page 599!

Y BRO. YORK'S OWN TESTIMONY Z

AFTER 18 MONTHS' USE.

Chicago, July 27th, 1897.
Dear Dr. House:

My office force have fallen in love with your Yellowzones.

I enclose \$1.00 for as many as you mail for that amount.

Y Success to you in your excellent work. Z

Very truly yours,

GEO. W. YORK.

P. S. Say, I think as much of your "Zones" as the "girls" do. They just straightened out a very severe headache I had awhile ago. Worth their weight in the yellow metal now being raved about up in Alaska.

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Drawer 1, Detour, Mich.

Y Z

Convention Notices.

Tennessee.—The Southern East Tennessee Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its annual session at Cooksons Creek, Friday Oct 1, beginning at 9 o'clock, a.m. Bee-keepers are earnestly requested to attend. The program foreshadows entertainment for the most fastidious.
W. J. COPELAND, Sec.
Fetters, Tenn.

Wisconsin.—The Southwestern Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its annual convention at Roscobel, Oct 6 and 7, 1897. All the leading apiarian subjects of the day will be thoroughly discussed, and a general good time is expected. All are cordially invited to come and bring their friends.
Calamine, Wis. F. L. MURRAY, Sec.

Utah.—The Utah Bee-Keepers' Association will hold their semi-annual meeting Oct 5, at 10 a.m., in the City and County Building, Salt Lake City. A full program in the interest of the industry will be presented, and every bee-keeper in the State should be interested in the success of the industry; especially in getting our new foul brood law into operation. We now have a good law that can be put into effective force; it can be made to reach every bee-keeper and every colony of bees in the State, if necessary. Then let us be alive to the issue; let us make good use of this weapon put into our hands, as long as there is a vestige of the disease found in our own fair State. All are cordially invited.
E. S. LOVENS, Pres.
J. B. FAGG, Sec., Mill Creek, Utah.

Please Send Us the Names of your neighbors who keep bees, and we will send them sample copies of the BEE JOURNAL. Then please call upon them and get them to subscribe with you and secure some of the premiums we offer.

HONEY and BEESWAX

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 1.—Fancy white, 12c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 9c.; No. 1, 7 to 8c.; fancy dark, 7 to 8c.; No. 1, 7c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.; dark, 3½c. Beeswax, 26 to 27c.

There is a little honey selling now, and with this month sales ought to increase. It is also a good time to ship comb, as wax is strong, and resists jars in transit.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 10.—Fancy white, 13c.; No. 1, 11 to 12c.; fancy amber, 10 to 11c.; No. 1, 9 to 10c.; fancy dark, 8 to 9c.; No. 1, 7 to 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 5½c.; amber, 4 to 4½c.; dark, 3½ to 4c. Beeswax, 25c.

There is very little demand for honey this hot weather, but will improve with cooler weather.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9.—Fancy white, 12 to 12½c.; No. 1, 11 to 11½c.; fancy amber, 10 to 10½c.; No. 1, 9 to 9½c.; fancy dark, 8 to 8½c.; No. 1, 5 to 7c. Extracted, white, 5 to 5½c.; amber, 4 to 4½c.; dark, 3½ to 4c. Beeswax, 24 to 24½c.

The weather so far this season has been too warm for the free movement of honey, but with the present prices on sugar we think there should be a good demand for extracted honey at the above prices. One car of 24,000 pounds sold since our last quotation on basis of above prices. Beeswax finds ready sale at 24c. or prime, while choice stock brings a little more.

Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 31.—Fancy white, 13c.; No. 1, 12c.; fancy amber, 8 to 9c.; fancy dark, 6 to 7c. Extracted, white, 6½ to 7c.; amber, 5 to 5½c.

Fancy white is in demand, but very little is coming in.

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 3.—Fancy white, 13½ to 14c.; No. 1, 12c. Extracted, white, 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.; dark, 4c. Beeswax, 24c.

No arrivals of dark or amber honey yet to any extent. Reports from all parts show large yields of honey in the East.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 1.—Fancy white, 11 to 12c.; No. 1, 9 to 10c.; fancy amber, 8 to 9c.; No. 1, 7 to 8c.; fancy dark, 6 to 7c.; No. 1, 5 to 6c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 4½c.; dark, 3½ to 4c. Beeswax, 22 to 26c.

Honey is selling just a little better, but we advise moderate shipments till October and November, when liberal amounts can be sold.

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 2.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 11 to 12c.; fancy amber, 8 to 10c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.; dark, 4 to 4½c. Beeswax, 25 to 27c.

The receipts of new comb honey begin to arrive, and of very nice quality. The extra ted is improving in quality. There is danger of not allowing it to cure before shipping. The demand is only moderate, but equal to former seasons, as while fruit it plenty honey is not wanted so much. Later there must be improved demand.

New York, N. Y., Sept. 7.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; off grades, 10 to 11c.; buckwheat, 9 to 10c. Extracted, California, white, 5 to 5½c.; light amber, 4½ to 5c. Southern, 50 to 55c. a gallon.

New crop of comb honey is arriving more freely, and we have a good demand. California extracted is in fairly good demand, but all other kinds are neglected. Beeswax is quiet and easier.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 7.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 10 to 12c.; No. 1 amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1 dark, 8 to 9c.

New crop comb honey is arriving quite freely, but as yet there is very little demand. The quality is about the same as last year. Extracted is very quiet.

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 1.—Fancy white, 11 to 13c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 8 to 9c.; fancy dark, 8 to 9c.; No. 1 dark, 6 to 7c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c. Beeswax, 23 to 25c.

Only strictly fancy stock wanted in this market. Market is firm but sales are slow.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 31.—Fancy white, 11 to 12c.; No. 1 white, 10-11c. Extracted, white, 5½ to 6½c. Beeswax, 25 to 26c.

No dark honey is yet offered. There is a steady demand for fancy white. Extracted is of good quality.

San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 8.—White comb, 1-lbs., 7 to 9c.; amber comb, 4 to 6c. Extracted, white, 4 to 4½c.; light amber, 3½ to 3¾c.; dark tulle, 2¾c. Beeswax, fair to choice, 2 to 2¼c.

Seldom are there larger shipments outward of this article than have been made the current week. The British ship, Kajore, sailing for London, took 1,026 cases. The British ship Howth, for same destination, carried 400 cases. At this rate not many weeks would be required to clean up stocks of extracted. Shippers name 3½c. for amber and 4c. for water white. On local account better prices are realized. Comb honey is moving slowly, but as soon as we have some cool weather there will be more inquiry.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 1.—Fancy white, 11 to 13c.; No. 1, 9 to 10c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c. Beeswax, 25c.

In an experience of eight years I have never before seen the demand so good for comb honey as it is just now. Consumers claim that honey is better this year than usual. Extracted honey is selling slowly.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 1.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 12c.; fancy amber, 10 to 11c. Extracted, white, 6½ to 7c.; amber, 6 to 6½c. Beeswax, 27c.

Honey is now being received in small lots and meeting a fair demand at above prices. Demand will naturally increase with cooler weather, and with the short Eastern crop, it should clean up in good shape.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 7.—Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.; dark, 3½ to 4c. Beeswax, 20 to 25c.

Our prices for best white comb honey ranges between 11 and 12c. Have no demand for dark comb honey. Demand is good for all kinds of honey.

List of Honey and Beeswax Dealers.

Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

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R. A. BURNETT & Co., 163 South Water Street.

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Kansas City, Mo.

C. C. CLEMONS & Co., 423 Walnut St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

BATTERSON & Co., 167 & 169 Scott St.

Hamilton, Ills.

CHAS. DADANT & SON.

Philadelphia, Pa.

WM. A. SELSER, 10 Vine St.

Cleveland, Ohio.

A. B. WILLIAMS & Co., 80 & 82 Broadway.

St. Louis, Mo.

WESTCOTT COM. CO., 213 Market St.

Minneapolis, Minn.

S. H. HALL & CO.

Milwaukee, Wis.

A. V. BISHOP & CO.

Boston, Mass.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE, 57 Chatham Street.

Detroit, Mich.

M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Wayne Co., Mich.

Indianapolis, Ind.

WALTER S. POWDER, 163 Massachusetts Ave.

Albany, N. Y.

CHAS. McCULLOCH & Co., 380 Broadway.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

C. F. MUTH & SON, cor. Freeman & Central Aves.

Bee-Keepers' Photograph.—We have now on hand a limited number of excellent photographs of prominent bee-keepers—a number of pictures on one card. The likeness of 49 of them are shown on one of the photographs, and 121 on the other. We will send them, postpaid, for 30 cts. a card, mailing from the 121 kind first; then after they are all gone, we will send the 49 kind. So those who order first will get the most "faces" for their money. Send orders to the Bee Journal office.

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It makes the way from **Weakness to Strength** so plain that only those who are past recovery (the very few) need to be sick, and the well who will follow its teachings **cannot be sick**. It is now in many families the only counsellor in matters of health, saving the need of calling a physician and all expenses for medicines, as it teaches Hygiene and the use of Nature's remedies, **not a drug treatment**.

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is illustrated with a number of Anatomical plates from the best English work on Anatomy published, and others made expressly for this work; contains 300 pages, printed on fine calendered paper, and although the price of the first edition (much smaller in size and without illustrations) was \$2.50, we sell this at \$1.00, postpaid.

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For sending us two new subscribers to the Bee Journal for one year, we will mail you the book free as a premium, or we will mail it for sending your own advance renewal and one new yearly subscriber. This is a wonderful premium offer. Address all orders to—

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Dehorn the Dairy Cows.—The dehorning of cattle is a subject which may be said to be settled in the affirmative so far as the great dairy districts of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota are concerned. A journey through these States will show to the intelligent observer that nearly one-half the cattle are minus their horns. And it appears to be the case that the large herds have been dehorned more completely than the smaller ones.

Removing the horns, when it is properly done by the Keystone Dehorning Knives made by A. C. Brosius, Cochransville, Pa., is not a painful operation, as is evidenced by the fact that it will scarcely interfere with the flow of a cow's milk as much as the chase around the pasture in front of the farmer's dog will do. Those best acquainted with dehorning and its results are its strongest advocates.

Choice Honey for sale Cheap

For Prices add 25c.
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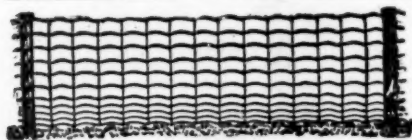
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 Why? Because men like a good thing.
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Shipping-Cases and Cans for Honey.

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If larger quantities are wanted, write for prices.

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